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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/754,722	01/12/2004	Ming Yuan Liu	LIUM3009/EM	1347
23364	7590	05/05/2006	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			KING, JUSTIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2111	

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/754,722	Applicant(s) LIU, MING YUAN	
	Examiner Justin I. King	Art Unit 2111	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "a tablet computer" in the 7th limitation. There is sufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "said second computer" in the last limitation. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 4-7 are rejected because they incorporate the parent claim's limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

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1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of "Putting Pen to Tablet" by Rebecca Freed, USB Specification 2.0, Nolan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,728,734), and Deschepper et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,145,029).

Referring to claim 1: Freed discloses a slate design notebook/tablet PC (Section of the Touching Experience). Freed discloses that it is known to attach accessories like a USB keyboard or docking station to the tablet PC; and Freed discloses that the docking station is known to add ports and drive bays. The physical exterior/case of the docking station disclosed by Freed is the claimed enclosure; and the device bays are to accommodate different peripheral devices installed within the enclosure. The USB Specification explicitly discloses the USB topology with a USB hub (USB Specification, page 16, figure 4-1, Tier 2); thus, Freed implicitly discloses a USB hub with a plurality of peripheral ports. The USB Specification discloses the hub controller and the repeater (page 298, figure 11-1) and the USB power management (Section 4.3). Freed does not disclose a second computer connected to the independent base, and Freed does not disclose a logic controller in the independent base.

Nolan discloses a data synchronizing mechanism with the USB protocol. Nolan discloses that it is known to connect a computer with a portable processing unit with a USB cable to achieve compliance of the information stored in the computer and the portable processing unit (column 1, lines 51-56).

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Deschepper discloses a docking station with a south bridge logic. Deschepper teaches one to disable the duplicated functions with the south bridge logic (abstract). Deschepper's south bridge logic of the docking station is the claimed logic controller of the independent base.

Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the computer art at the time Applicant made the invention to adapt the teachings of Nolan and Deschepper onto Freed because Nolan teaches one to automatically synchronize the data between a computer and a portable processing unit with the USB protocol's hot-plugging feature, and Deschepper teaches one to use a control logic to disable the duplicated functions while connecting a computer onto the expansion base.

Referring to claim 4: Freed discloses a USB keyboard connected to the tablet (page 2, 6th paragraph), and Freed discloses that the tablet is used as a conventional notebook. The touchpad is well-known device for a notebook in replacing a mouse. Since the tablet is used as a notebook, it would have been obvious to attach any notebook accessories, such as a mouse or mouse equivalence to the tablet.

Referring to claim 5: Official Notice is taken on the following: the hard disk drive, CD ROM or floppy disk drive is known to be connected to the docking station; and Applicant does not contest regarding this Official Notice.

Referring to claims 6-7: Nolan discloses a desktop computer and a notebook computer (column 4, lines 48-49).

Response to Amendment

6. Applicant's amendment on the claims has substantially broadened the scope of the claimed limitations and exceeded the allowable subject matter as indicated in the previous Office Action. Therefore, the allowable subject matter is withdrawn in view of the amendment.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

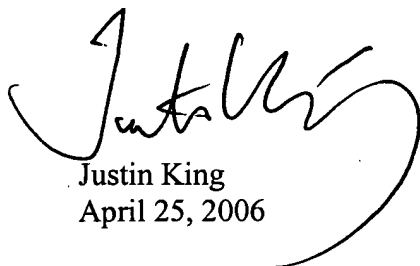
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin I. King whose telephone number is 571-272-3628. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on 571-272-3632 or on the central telephone number, (571) 272-2100. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lastly, paper copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will cease to be mailed to applicants with Office actions as of June 2004. Paper copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature will continue to be included with office actions. These cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. Applicants are referred to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197 for information on this policy. Requests to restart a period for response due to a missing U.S. patent or patent application publications will not be granted.


Justin King
April 25, 2006


MARK H. PINEHART
SUPERVISOR
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100
EXAMINER
APR 27 2006
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100